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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In an vendor order server, a method for processing order messages, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message of the order messages over a network, the first message comprising a first extended markup language document from a customer ordering application~~document~~ organized in a first predefined format;

directing the first message to a first message processing module of a plurality of message processing modules, directing the first message further comprising parsing the first message to determine a message type that identifies an ordering function for the first message, and directing the first message to the first processing module based on the message type;

obtaining a first data set from a first predefined element of the first extended markup language document~~the first message~~ based on the first predefined format of the first document in response to the step of receiving the first message;

obtaining a second data set by processing the first data set of the first message in response to the step of obtaining the first data set, further comprising invoking an ordering function based on a message type defined in a second predefined element of the first extended markup language document to generate the second data set; and

providing over the network the second data set in a second message comprising a providing the second data set in a third predefined element in a second extended markup language document to the customer ordering application, the second extended markup language document organized in a second predefined format suitable for use by ~~an~~ the customer ordering application.

2. (Cancelled)

not approved  
for 1/13/05  
Do Not Enter  
L.S.  
1/13/2004